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General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 58 (q) of the preliminary list*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Note verbale dated 4 June 2004 from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit the attached letter from the Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Helen Clark, concerning the outcomes of the Special Leaders' Retreat of the Pacific Islands Forum, held in Auckland on 6 April 2004 (see annex). The Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated to Member States.

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-38981 (E) 220604

Annex to the note verbale dated 4 June 2004 from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 13 May 2004 from the Prime Minister of New Zealand to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum. Last year I chaired the 34th annual meeting of Heads of Government of the Pacific Island Countries. One of the major outcomes from that meeting was a commitment by Leaders to revitalize regional cooperation through a review of the functioning of the Forum itself, and of its supporting bureaucracy, especially the Suva-based Forum Secretariat.

Forum leaders met in New Zealand on 6 April for a special Summit to consider the findings of the now completed review. The decisions taken by Leaders on the review are likely to have far-reaching implications for the Forum region over the next decade, and for the region's engagement with other international bodies. Accordingly, I would like to take this opportunity to bring our decisions to your attention. In summary:

- Leaders have agreed to a Pacific Vision statement that sets the region on a new path of enhanced regional cooperation. The Vision statement is optimistic in outlook but also recognizes that a weakness in one country can become a risk for all in the region.

- The Vision statement will be elaborated through the development of a Pacific Plan. This ambitious undertaking will intensify cooperation between the sovereign countries of the region. It will identify how better sharing of resources and alignment of policies will improve the well-being of the region.

- Work will begin right away with an assessment by Forum governments and the Forum's Secretary General of opportunities for additional regional cooperation, to be considered in the first instance by Forum leaders when we gather for our annual meeting in August.

- Leaders have confirmed that the key goals of the Forum are economic growth, sustainable development, good governance, and security. Forum leaders have also stressed that they have a particular interest in the preservation of Pacific cultures and languages.

- Improvements will be made to the Post Forum Dialogue, an annual opportunity for senior Ministers and officials of 12 countries and groupings from outside the Pacific to meet representatives of the Forum.

Leaders also endorsed a series of recommendations that will make the Forum organization more effective. For your information I have enclosed a copy of the Review report "Pacific Cooperation: Voices of the Region", as well as the Auckland Declaration (see enclosure I) and associated list of Leaders' Decisions from the Auckland meeting (see enclosure II).

I am confident that the decisions taken by Pacific Islands Forum leaders will enhance our region's stability, growth and cooperation in the years ahead. We want to work closely with those bodies that have an interest in the region in achieving the goals of the Pacific Vision, and I welcome the ongoing engagement and interest of the United Nations as we pursue our shared goals for the region.

(*Signed*) Helen **Clark**
Prime Minister and Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum

Enclosure I

Pacific Islands Forum
Special Leaders' Retreat

Auckland
6 April 2004

The Auckland Declaration

Leaders of Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated states of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand (Chair), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu met in Auckland, New Zealand on 6 April 2004 to consider the Forum Eminent Persons' Group review of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Recalling their decision at the 34th Pacific Islands Forum in Auckland to task an Eminent Persons Group to carry out a review of the Forum and its Secretariat, and their direction that the review propose a refreshed mandate and vision for the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as an improved capacity allowing the Forum to provide leadership on regional cooperation and integration;

recalling their agreement that the serious challenges facing countries of the region warranted serious and careful examination of the pooling of scarce regional resources to strengthen national capabilities;

noting that the peoples of the Pacific are the custodians of the largest, most peaceful and abundant ocean, its many islands and its rich diversity of cultures;

believing that the strengthening of Pacific cultures and languages in the face of external pressures should be a central concern for Forum Leaders;

paying tribute to and reaffirming the wisdom of the Forum founders in recognising the advantages to all Pacific people of close cooperation and shared purpose;

recognising the substantial and many achievements of the Forum and its associated agencies over the last 33 years since it first met in Wellington in 1971, its contribution to the development of a Pacific regional consciousness and endeavour, and consolidating its position as the pre-eminent political grouping in the region;

recognising that in a fast changing, complex and unpredictable global environment, it is timely to refresh the Forum to preserve relevance and allow it to continue to provide leadership to the region.

Leaders adopted the following vision:

> *Leaders believe the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all its people can lead free and worthwhile lives. We treasure the diversity of the Pacific and seek a future in which its cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed. We seek a Pacific region that is respected for the*

quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values, and for its defence and promotion of human rights. We seek partnerships with our neighbours and beyond to develop our knowledge, to improve our communications and to ensure a sustainable economic existence for all.

Leaders agreed to give effect to this vision through:

i. development of the Pacific Plan. This would create stronger and deeper links between the sovereign countries of the region and identify the sectors where the region could gain the most from sharing resources of governance and aligning policies. It would provide a strategy for implementation;

ii. agreement that the key goals of the Forum are economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security and that these goals should form the principal focus of the Forum and its Secretariat;

iii. recognition that a fundamental role of the Forum is to support the particular needs of Small Island States and to advocate their interests, especially in regard to their limited capacity and protecting their fragile environment, including from climate change;

iv. recognition that the Forum has to exist for the practical benefit of Pacific people, and of the importance of cultural identity, regional inclusiveness, sub-regional representation, human rights, women and gender, youth, and civil society and invited the Secretary General, in preparing the Pacific Plan, to consult, assess and make proposals on how cultural identity could be best strengthened through the work of the Forum and CROP agencies, in particular the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC);

v. improvement of the way the Forum communicates its work to member countries and the wider world;

vi. reform of the Forum's procedures, its meetings, and the role of Leaders, the Chair, Ministers and officials.

Leaders recognised that the work required on taking forward these commitments to achieve the Pacific vision will form the heart of Forum work over the next decade.

Leaders agreed that it would be appropriate from time to time for the Forum Leaders' Meeting to revisit the vision and assess progress towards its achievement.

Enclosure II

Pacific Islands Forum
Special Leaders' Retreat

Auckland
6 April 2004

Leaders' Decisions

Leaders agreed to:

A Pacific Vision

1. Adopt the following Vision as a guide to Forum actions and policies.

   Leaders believe the Pacific region can, should and will be a region of peace, harmony, security and economic prosperity, so that all its people can lead free and worthwhile lives. We treasure the diversity of the Pacific and seek a future in which its cultures, traditions and religious beliefs are valued, honoured and developed. We seek a Pacific region that is respected for the quality of its governance, the sustainable management of its resources, the full observance of democratic values, and for its defence and promotion of human rights. We seek partnerships with our neighbours and beyond to develop our knowledge, to improve our communications and to ensure a sustainable economic existence for all.

The Pacific Plan

2. Endorse and lead the development of the Pacific Plan, intended to create stronger and deeper links between the countries of the region. The Plan should:

   Assess options and provide a strategy for deeper and broader regional cooperation, taking into account the broader international environment and agreements in which Forum members participate.

   Identify the sectors and issues in which the region can gain the most from sharing resources of governance and aligning policies.

   Provide clear recommendations to Leaders on the sequence and priorities for intensified regional cooperation.

   Be used as a springboard for stimulating debate on how to shape the region's longer-term future.

   Be carried out by a Task Force of people from within the region, managed by the Secretary General.

   Be overseen in the first instance by a core group of Leaders (comprising the immediate past, current and incoming chairs and a representative of the Smaller Island States), this composition to be reviewed after each Forum.

Be started as soon as possible. The Forum Secretariat to complete an assessment of existing mechanisms and processes for regional cooperation in time for the 2004 Apia Forum, along with draft terms of reference and recommendations from the Secretary General for membership of the Task Force.

3. Develop a digital strategy for the region, based on the 1999 Communications Action Plan.

Forum tasks and themes

4. Define the key goals of the Forum as economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security and that these goals should form the principal focus of the Forum and its Secretariat.

5. Give the greatest possible support to maintaining and increasing efforts by the Forum Secretariat to enhance the governance capabilities of Forum members and Forum-related agencies.

6. Mandate the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chair, to call a meeting of Leaders or Forum Foreign Ministers in times of crisis with a view to galvanising regional action.

7. Endorse the proposal that the maintenance and strengthening of cultural identity be a core theme for Forum leaders.

8. Encourage closer contacts with non-sovereign Pacific territories, through progressively granting them observer status at Leaders' meetings and associated meetings of the Forum Officials' Committee. New criteria for participation should be developed, grounded in the region's interests.

Other Recommendations

9. Encourage the development of national human rights machinery. This might involve engagement with the Asia Pacific Human Rights Forum.

10. Address the low participation of women in all levels of decision-making processes and structures, as well as the reduction and elimination of domestic violence, and the improvement of women's literacy and health status.

11. Listen to the needs and aspirations of the burgeoning population of young people in the region, and recognise the impact of bigger and more youthful populations on the resources required for education and vocational training, healthcare, and job opportunities.

12. Strengthen Forum engagement with civil society. The Secretary General could be asked to discuss options for this with representatives of regional civil society. One option could be for civil society to organise a forum just prior to the Leaders' meeting with a report conveyed to Leaders via the Secretary General.

13. Task the Secretary General with developing a Forum Secretariat communications and publicity strategy with a view to strengthening links

between the Secretariat and members, and also between the Secretariat and Forum Dialogue partners and agencies, both regional and international.

14. Encourage good stewardship of existing funds by the Forum Secretariat, while recognising that the proposed Pacific Plan may impose additional financial demands.

The Leaders' Meeting

15. Task the Secretary General or a delegate with consulting in member capitals several months prior to the annual Leaders' meeting and developing a short Retreat agenda list

16. Require Ministers and CROP heads to provide only written reports to Plenary sessions unless Leaders decide otherwise.

17. Retain the system of annual, alphabetical rotational Leaders' meetings in member countries, with the option of hosting them at the Form Secretariat headquarters in Suva if requested by the host country.

The Role of the Chair

18. Assist the Chair to play a proactive role in taking a strong regional leadership role, in respect of agreed Forum responsibilities and positions, including on the international stage. The country acting as Forum Chair to be responsible for organising a caucus before major international meetings to assess common ground among Forum countries.

19. Authorise Secretariat support for the Chair, as and when requested.

The Post-Forum Dialogue

20. Maintain and build on the 2003 precedent of a post-Forum briefing of Dialogue Partners by the Chair.

21. Revise the panel system to ensure that panelists are able to concentrate exclusively on the Dialogue process. Panel members should be chosen – on the basis of recommendations from the Secretary General to the Chair – from among Forum Ministers.

The Forum Officials' Committee

22. Mandate Forum Ministerial meetings with decision-making power on all issues except those where Ministers determine that a decision by Leaders is required. Leaders would of course retain the right to reconsider issues.

23. Set a date for the main FOC meeting that is about three weeks before the Leaders' gathering rather than just a few days before as at present.

24. Keep in mind the option of holding the main FOC meeting in Suva, unless the incoming Chair urges that it be held in the Forum host country.

25. Bring forward the budget-setting FOC meeting so that resources can be better aligned with tasks set by Leaders.

The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific

26. Task the Secretary General, in consultation with CROP heads, with ascertaining whether a redrafting of the CROP Charter would help to define more clearly the relationships between CROP agencies, the Forum Secretariat and the Secretary General. The aim of any change would be to ensure that the most effective use is made of the scarce resources of the region.

The Forum Secretariat

27. Authorise the early appointment of a second Deputy Secretary General to improve the capacity of the Secretariat and enable the Secretary General to take up a more proactive regional role in support of the Chair.

28. Appoint a working group of Forum members to draft a new Agreement that updates and clearly sets down the role, functions and responsibilities of the Secretariat. In particular, the document should emphasise that the primary roles of the Secretariat are policy advice, coordination and assistance in implementing Leaders' decisions, rather than the project implementation and technical assistance functions that it has acquired over the years.

29. Task the Secretary General with developing a corporate plan that identifies the resources and structure necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretariat, as well as ensuring that the Secretariat has effective budget, performance management and corporate planning systems.

30. Task the Secretary General with ensuring that the considerable needs of Small Island members are mainstreamed into all levels of Secretariat work.

31. Enforce the provision that Secretariat executive/professional staff be hired for no more than two three-year terms of employment at the Secretariat, so that people with skills developed at the Secretariat can use these skills in the service of their home countries. It may be necessary to offer the Secretary General a transition period in which to apply this provision to current staff.

The Secretary General

32. Encourage the Secretary General to take a proactive role in setting Forum agendas and coordinating responses by members to regional events, particularly crises. Such action would need to be taken in close consultation with the Chair and within limits set by Leaders.

Forum Smaller Island States Sub-Group

33. Warmly encourage the Republic of Palau to consider becoming a member of the Smaller Island States sub-group of the Forum at an early opportunity.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 108 (a) of the preliminary list*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Letter dated 11 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has adopted an action plan to comply with the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (see annex).

The plan, which was developed in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the embassies of the United States of America and European Union member States in Uzbekistan, as well as international non-governmental organizations, incorporates the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, Mr. Theo van Boven.

In this regard, I should be grateful to you if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under item 108 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) Alisher **Vohidov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-39189 (E) 180604

Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Human Rights Developments in Uzbekistan: The Government's Action Plan to comply with the UN Convention

The Government of Uzbekistan has adopted an Action Plan to comply with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The plan, which was developed in close cooperation with UNDP, OSCE, Embassies of USA and EU member states in Uzbekistan and also international NGOs, incorporates the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Theo van Boven.

The Action Plan encompasses a number of important measures to further liberalize the court-judicial system, which is considered as one of the main direction of the democratization process in society. The major actions in the plan could be underlined as following:

- According to the work plans of appropriate ministries and agencies, discussing within the framework of meetings of their collegial governing bodies and Coordination Council of law-enforcement agencies under the Office of Prosecutor General the issue of strict observance by officials of law-enforcement agencies of international commitments under the Convention against Torture.

- Preparing the comments on application of Article 235 of the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan (CC), which envisages responsibilities of officials for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (New Edition of Article 235 of CC was adopted by the Oliy Majlis on August 29, 2003).

- Studying practice of detention by law-enforcement agencies of suspected individuals under Article 225 of Criminal Procedural Code (CPC) and of implementation of a right to appeal suppression measures under Article 241 of CPC.

- Organizing a round-table to discuss recommendations by ODIHR international expert D. Korf who in 2002 reviewed CC of Uzbekistan

- Conducting poll on ill-cases of torture and other types of mistreatment in the process of preliminary investigation, actual investigation and serving a sentence among those set free after completion of their sentence and those serving a sentence.

- Preparing action plans on ensuring control over actions of law enforcement agencies officials aimed at eliminating practice of tortures and other types of mistreatment.

- Drafting "Law on holding suspects and defendants accused of committing crimes" that would allow to define legal status of such persons, their rights and obligations; the order and conditions of holding them in places of preliminary detention; regulations of organizing control, including public one, over observance of guarantees of rights and freedoms of those under detention.

- Developing the necessary procedures on visiting and studying the conditions of detention by representatives of diplomatic corps, international and nongovernmental organizations and mass-media.

- Developing of the agreement on the cooperation between penitentiary system bodies and NGOs.

- Improving system of professional training of lawyers with the aim of providing qualified legal assistance to detainees.

- Preparation of draft amendments and changes to legislative acts concerning lawyers' activities (CC, CPC, Civil Code. Civil Procedural Code, Commercial Procedural Code, new edition of Law on Advocatura and etc).

- Ensuring media coverage of rights of detainees for protection by lawyer.

- Elaborating curriculums with emphasis on the course of "International Standards of Human Rights in Legal Proceedings".

- Studying international experience in transfer of penitentiary system under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice.

- Establishing the expert group on preparation of penitentiary system reform concept.

- Studying practice of responding by appropriate state bodies to interim measures called for by the UN Human Rights Committee, i.e. requests not to carry out death sentences towards individuals whose cases are under consideration by the Human Rights Committee and there is a communication to this effect by the Committee to the Government of Uzbekistan.

- Preparing the report on implementation by state bodies of interim measures called for by the UN Human Rights Committee.

- Adopting a new edition of "Law on Ombudsman", particularly envisaging following articles:

a) status of Ombudsman's Secretariat as a legal entities, its regional representatives, Commission on observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of individuals, on expert council under Ombudsman, separate financing and material provision of Ombudsman's activities;

b) right to visit penitentiary establishments, those arrested, convicted, places of compulsory treatment and re-education, psychiatric establishments, military establishments, conduct interviews and meetings at those sites and receive information on their detention conditions;

- Conducting poll on introduction of moratorium and repeal of capital punishment

- Considering the adoption of statement pursuant to Article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment, on recognizing the right of Committee against Torture to receive and consider submissions of individuals whose rights under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment have allegedly been violated.

It is also worth to note that since 2001, the Government of Uzbekistan is pursuing widespread reforms of its court-judicial system, which became the logical continuation of general process of judicial reforms and liberalization of the criminal law.

"Law on changes and amendments to the Criminal, Criminal Procedural Codes and Code on administrative liability in connection with liberalization of criminal punishment"

adopted in August 2001 made substantial changes to the system of criminal law and court practice.

Substantial changes are also observed in court practice for imposing punishments. For example, if in 2000 the share of convicted individuals in the from of imprisonment was 47,2 %, in 2003 this figure was 34,7%, and 65,3 % of convictions were in the form other than imprisonment. Arrest and detention are excluded as a punishment for many types of crimes. Annual amnesties give opportunity to tens of thousand of citizens to return to normal life. It should be underscored that since 1997 nearly 200,000 persons benefited from amnesties. At present the release of persons under the President Decree on Amnesty of 01.12.2003 is taking place. It means that the number of persons benefited from amnesties will further increase. It allowed decreasing the number of detainees in two times in comparison with 2000, also CIS and other countries. For instance, in 2003 prison population rate per 100,000 of national population was 184 in Uzbekistan.

Court-judicial reforms have also included the reform of penitentiary system of the country. International community now has unprecedented access to penitentiary system of Uzbekistan. A number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as diplomatic corps in Uzbekistan, including ICRC, Freedom House, OSCE, Embassies of USA and EU member states, as well as NGOs and representatives of foreign mass media, have undertaken numerous visits to several penitentiaries of the country. For instance, while ICRC in 2001 made 5 spot visits to penitentiaries, in 2003 this figure exceeded 50.

On September 26, 2003 the President of Uzbekistan has signed Decree "On liberalization of prison conditions of first-time convicts". According to this Decree the persons imprisoned for non-serious crimes will serve the sentence in the special settlements that provide them the possibility for normal contacts with families.

Mitigating the legislation also covered issues of the death penalty. In particular, the number of crimes punishable by death penalty has decreased in the Criminal Code. In 1991 death penalty has been envisaged in 35 articles of the Criminal Code. Currently, the death penalty is envisaged in cases of two types of crimes: premeditated murder under aggravated circumstances and terrorism.

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 58 (j) of the preliminary list*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Note verbale dated 1 June 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Andorra to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Andorra to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General, and has the honour to transmit a letter from Mr. Juli Minoves Triquell, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Andorra, concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Principality of Andorra would be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

04-39246 (E) 180604 180604

Annex to the note verbale dated 1 June 2004 from the Permanent Mission of Andorra to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of the position of the Government of the Principality of Andorra regarding cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), particularly concerning the conclusions of the Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons on Civil Society and United Nations Relationships (the "Cardoso Panel") on relations between the United Nations and civil society, including parliamentarians and the private sector. The Andorran parliamentary delegation took an active part in the 110th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, held in Mexico from 15 to 23 April 2004, and supported the recommendations of IPU in relation to the conclusions of the Cardoso Panel.

As you know, the Principality of Andorra has usually reacted favourably to your reports on cooperation between the United Nations and IPU and has also co-sponsored draft resolutions on the subject. During the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, my Government co-sponsored and strongly supported the proposal that IPU should be given observer status. I would like to reiterate my Government's support for your efforts to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and IPU. We believe that the two bodies should enter into a process of in-depth consultations in order to define a shared view of the parliamentary dimension of the work of the United Nations. Governments and parliaments could consider the outcome of such negotiations during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in the hope that the latter would favour active and constructive participation by parliaments in the areas of competence of IPU.

(*Signed*) Juli **Minoves Triquell**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations A/59/98–E/2004/79

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Item 57 of the preliminary list*
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2004
28 June-23 July 2004
Items 4 and 6 of the provisional agenda**

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Letter dated 2 June 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Finland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We are pleased to draw your attention to a report entitled "A fair globalization: creating opportunities for all". The report, issued in February 2004 by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which was co-chaired by Presidents Tarja Halonen of Finland and Benjamin William Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, focuses, inter alia, on issues of governance and accountability, and recommends, among other things, a series of coordinated measures across a broad front at both the national and international levels in the area of trade, investment, finance, migration and labour.

The Commission was established by the International Labour Organization in November 2001. It functions as an independent body and its members serve in their individual capacity. They have endorsed the report as a whole to stimulate a wider process of public dialogue and common endeavour which will promote a fair and inclusive globalization.

In light of the report's importance and relevance to the work of the United Nations, particularly in the economic and social field, we would be grateful if the present letter and the attached summary of the report (see annex) could be issued as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under item 57 of the preliminary list, and of the substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council, under items 4 and 6 of the provisional agenda. In addition, we would like

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.
** E/2004/100 and Corr.1 and 2.

04-39424 (E) 220604

to request that it be included for consideration at the upcoming substantive session of 2004 of the Economic and Social Council, as well as at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

The language versions of the complete report can be accessed at http://www.ilo.org/public/english/wcsdg/index.htm.

(*Signed*) Marjatta **Rasi**
Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Augustine **Mahiga**
Permanent Representative of the United Republic
of Tanzania to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 2 June 2004 from the Permanent Representatives of Finland and the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Summary of the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization entitled "A fair globalization: creating opportunities for all"

Introduction

Our remit, the Social Dimension of Globalization, is a vast and complex one. As a Commission we were broadly representative of the diverse and contending actors and interests that exist in the real world. Co-chaired by two serving Heads of State, a woman and a man, from North and South, we came from countries in different parts of the world and at all stages of development. Our affiliations were equally diverse: government, politics, parliaments, business and multinational corporations, organized labour, academia and civil society.

Yet, through a spirit of common purpose, we arrived at the shared understandings that are before you. As a collective document it is quite different from alternative reports each one of us would have written individually. But our experience has demonstrated the value and power of dialogue as an instrument for change. Through listening patiently and respectfully to diverse views and interests we found common ground.

We were spurred on by the realization that action to build a fair and inclusive process of globalization was urgent. This could only happen in the future through forging agreements among a broad spectrum of actors on the course for action. We are convinced that our experience can and should be replicated on a larger and wider scale, expanding the space for dialogue aimed at building consensus for action.

A vision for change

Public debate on globalization is at an impasse. Opinion is frozen in the ideological certainties of entrenched positions and fragmented in a variety of special interests. The will for consensus is weak. Key international negotiations are deadlocked and international development commitments go largely unfulfilled.

The report before you offers no miraculous or simple solutions, for there are none. But it is an attempt to help break the current impasse by focusing on the concerns and aspirations of people and on the ways to better harness the potential of globalization itself.

Ours is a critical but positive message for changing the current path of globalization. We believe the benefits of globalization can be extended to more people and better shared between and within countries, with many more voices having an influence on its course. The resources and the means are at hand. Our proposals are ambitious but feasible. We are certain that a better world is possible.

We seek a process of globalization with a strong social dimension based on universally shared values, and respect for human rights and individual dignity; one that is fair, inclusive, democratically governed and provides opportunities and tangible benefits for all countries and people.

To this end we call for:

- *A focus on people.* The cornerstone of a fairer globalization lies in meeting the demands of all people for: respect for their rights, cultural identity and autonomy; decent work; and the empowerment of the local communities they live in. Gender equality is essential.
- *A democratic and effective State.* The State must have the capability to manage integration into the global economy, and provide social and economic opportunity and security.
- *Sustainable development.* The quest for a fair globalization must be underpinned by the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of economic development, social development and environmental protection at the local, national, regional and global levels.

- *Productive and equitable markets.* This requires sound institutions to promote opportunity and enterprise in a well-functioning market economy.
- *Fair rules.* The rules of the global economy must offer equitable opportunity and access for all countries and recognize the diversity in national capacities and developmental needs.
- *Globalization with solidarity.* There is a shared responsibility to assist countries and people excluded from or disadvantaged by globalization. Globalization must help to overcome inequality both within and between countries and contribute to the elimination of poverty.
- *Greater accountability to people.* Public and private actors at all levels with power to influence the outcomes of globalization must be democratically accountable for the policies they pursue and the actions they take. They must deliver on their commitments and use their power with respect for others.
- *Deeper partnerships.* Many actors are engaged in the realization of global social and economic goals – international organizations, governments and parliaments, business, labour, civil society and many others. Dialogue and partnership among them is an essential democratic instrument to create a better world.
- *An effective United Nations.* A stronger and more efficient multilateral system is the key instrument to create a democratic, legitimate and coherent framework for globalization.

Globalization and its impact

Globalization has set in motion a process of far-reaching change that is affecting everyone. New technology, supported by more open policies, has created a world more interconnected than ever before. This spans not only growing interdependence in economic relations – trade, investment, finance and the organization of production globally – but also social and political interaction among organizations and individuals across the world.

The potential for good is immense. The growing interconnectivity among people across the world is nurturing the realization that we are all part of a global community. This nascent sense of interdependence, commitment to shared universal values, and solidarity among peoples across the world can be channelled to build enlightened and democratic global governance in the interests of all. The global market economy has demonstrated great productive capacity. Wisely managed, it can deliver unprecedented material progress, generate more productive and better jobs for all, and contribute significantly to reducing world poverty.

But we also see how far short we still are from realizing this potential. The current process of globalization is generating unbalanced outcomes, both between and within countries. Wealth is being created, but too many countries and people are not sharing in its benefits. They also have little or no voice in shaping the process. Seen through the eyes of the vast majority of women and men, globalization has not met their simple and legitimate aspirations for decent jobs and a better future for their children. Many of them live in the limbo of the informal economy without formal rights and in a swathe of poor countries that subsist precariously on the margins of the global economy. Even in economically successful countries some workers and communities have been adversely affected by globalization. Meanwhile the revolution in global communications heightens awareness of these disparities.

A strategy for change

These global imbalances are morally unacceptable and politically unsustainable. What is required to change this is not the realization of a Utopian blueprint in one swoop. Rather

it is a series of coordinated changes across a broad front, ranging from reform of parts of the global economic system to strengthening governance at the local level. All this should and can be achieved in the context of open economies and open societies. Though interests diverge, we believe that there is increasing convergence of opinion throughout the world on the need for a fair and inclusive process of globalization.

We have formulated a wide-ranging set of recommendations to realize this. Given the necessary political will, immediate action is feasible on some trade and financial issues that have been the subject of protracted multilateral negotiations and discussion in policy circles. On these issues, the required course of action is clear but the urgent need for change has not yet dawned on some major players. Here continued advocacy and a stronger public opinion is essential to carry the proposals forward. Advocacy to prepare the ground for the consideration of new issues will also be important. But on these newer issues, such as the development of a multilateral framework for the cross-border movement of people or the accountability of international organizations, the prime lever for the decision to act is broad-based dialogue among State and non-State actors. Through this, consensus and resolve can be forged on what needs to be done, how, and by whom.

The governance of globalization

We judge that the problems we have identified are not due to globalization as such but to deficiencies in its governance. Global markets have grown rapidly without the parallel development of economic and social institutions necessary for their smooth and equitable functioning. At the same time, there is concern about the unfairness of key global rules on trade and finance and their asymmetric effects on rich and poor countries.

An additional concern is the failure of current international policies to respond adequately to the challenges posed by globalization. Market opening measures and financial and economic considerations predominate over social ones. Official Development Assistance (ODA) falls far short of the minimum amounts required even for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and tackling growing global problems. The multilateral system responsible for designing and implementing international policies is also under-performing. It lacks policy coherence as a whole and is not sufficiently democratic, transparent and accountable.

These rules and policies are the outcome of a system of global governance largely shaped by powerful countries and powerful players. There is a serious democratic deficit at the heart of the system. Most developing countries still have very limited influence in global negotiations on rules and in determining the policies of key financial and economic institutions. Similarly, workers and the poor have little or no voice in this governance process.

Beginning at home

There is thus a wide range of issues to be addressed at the global level. But this alone will not suffice. Global governance is not a lofty, disembodied sphere. It is merely the apex of a web of governance that stretches from the local level upwards. The behaviour of nation States as global actors is the essential determinant of the quality of global governance. Their degree of commitment to multilateralism, universal values and common goals, the extent of their sensitivity to the cross-border impact of their policies, and the weight they attach to global solidarity are all vital determinants of the quality of global governance. At the same time, how they manage their internal affairs influences the extent to which people will benefit from globalization and be protected from its negative effects. In this important sense the response to globalization can be said to begin at home. This reflects the simple but crucial fact that people live locally within nations.

We therefore anchor our analysis at the national level. We do not, of course, presume to make specific recommendations for all the greatly diverse countries of the world. Rather, we set out the broad goals and principles that can guide policy to deal more effectively with the social dimension of globalization, fully recognizing that their implementation must respond to the needs and specific conditions of each country. From this perspective it is clear that national governance needs to be improved in all countries, albeit more radically in some than in others. There is wide international agreement on the essentials which we must all urgently strive for:

- good political governance based on a democratic political system, respect for human rights, the rule of law and social equity.
- an effective State that ensures high and stable economic growth, provides public goods and social protection, raises the capabilities of people through universal access to education and other social services, and promotes gender equity.
- a vibrant civil society, empowered by freedom of association and expression, that reflects and voices the full diversity of views and interests. Organizations representing public interests, the poor and other disadvantaged groups are also essential for ensuring participatory and socially just governance.
- strong representative organizations of workers and employers are essential for fruitful social dialogue.

The highest priority must be given to policies to meet the central aspiration of women and men for decent work; to raise the productivity of the informal economy and to integrate it into the economic mainstream; and to enhance the competitiveness of enterprises and economies.

Policy must focus squarely on meeting peoples' needs where they live and work. It is thus essential to nurture local communities through the devolution of power and resources and through strengthening local economic capabilities, cultural identity, and respecting the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples.

Nation States should also strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation as a major instrument for development and for a stronger voice in the governance of globalization. They should reinforce the social dimension of regional integration.

Reform at the global level

At the global level, we have more specific recommendations to make. Some key ones are highlighted below.

Global rules and policies on trade and finance must allow more space for policy autonomy in developing countries. This is essential for developing policies and institutional arrangements best suited to their level of development and specific circumstances. Existing rules that unduly restrict their policy options for accelerating agricultural growth and industrialization and for maintaining financial and economic stability need to be reviewed. New rules must also respect this requirement. The policies of international organizations and donor countries must also shift more decisively away from external conditionality to national ownership of policies. Affirmative action provisions in favour of countries that do not have the same capabilities as those who developed earlier need to be strengthened.

Fair rules for trade and capital flows need to be complemented by fair rules for the cross-border movement of people. International migratory pressures have increased and problems such as trafficking in people and the exploitation of migrant workers have intensified. Steps have to be taken to build a multilateral framework that provides uniform and transparent rules for the cross-border movement of people and balances the interests of both migrants themselves and of countries of origin and destination. All countries stand to benefit from an orderly and managed process of international migration that can enhance global productivity and eliminate exploitative practices.

Global production systems have proliferated, generating the need for new rules on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and on competition. A balanced and development-friendly multilateral framework for FDI, negotiated in a generally accepted forum, will benefit all countries by promoting increased direct investment flows while limiting the problems of incentive competition which reduce the benefits from these flows. Such a framework should balance private, workers' and public interests, as well as their rights and responsibilities. Cooperation on cross-border competition policy will make global markets more transparent and competitive.

Core labour standards as defined by the ILO provide a minimum set of global rules for labour in the global economy and respect for them should be strengthened in all countries. Stronger action is required to ensure respect for core labour standards in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and, more generally, in global production systems. All relevant international institutions should assume their part in promoting these standards and ensure that no aspect of their policies and programmes impedes implementation of these rights.

The multilateral trading system should substantially reduce unfair barriers to market access for goods in which developing countries have comparative advantage, especially textiles and garments and agricultural products. In doing so, the interests of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) should be safeguarded through special and differential treatment to nurture their export potential.

A minimum level of social protection for individuals and families needs to be accepted and undisputed as part of the socio-economic 'floor' of the global economy, including adjustment assistance to displaced workers. Donors and financial institutions should contribute to the strengthening of social protection systems in developing countries.

Greater market access is not a panacea. A more balanced strategy for sustainable global growth and full employment, including an equitable sharing among countries of the responsibility for maintaining high levels of effective demand in the global economy, is essential. Enhanced coordination of macroeconomic policies among countries to this end is a key requirement. A successful global growth strategy will ease economic tensions among countries and make market access for developing countries easier to achieve.

Decent Work for all should be made a global goal and be pursued through coherent policies within the multilateral system. This would respond to a major political demand in all countries and demonstrate the capacity of the multilateral system to find creative solutions to this critical problem.

The international financial system should be made more supportive of sustainable global growth. Cross-border financial flows have grown massively but the system is unstable, prone to crises and largely bypasses poor and capital scarce countries. Gains in the spheres of trade and FDI cannot be fully reaped unless the international financial system is reformed to achieve greater stability. In this context developing countries should be permitted to adopt a cautious and gradual approach to capital account liberalization and more socially sensitive sequencing of adjustment measures in response to crises.

A greater effort is required to mobilize more international resources to attain key global goals, particularly the MDGs. The 0.7 per cent target for ODA must be met and new sources for funding over and above this target should be actively explored and developed.

The implementation of reforms in international economic and social policy will require worldwide political support, the commitment of key global actors, and the strengthening of global institutions. The UN multilateral system constitutes the core of global governance and is uniquely equipped to spearhead the process of reform. For it to cope with the current and emerging challenges of globalization it has to enhance its effectiveness and improve the quality of its governance, especially with respect to democratic representation and decision-making, accountability to people, and policy coherence.

We call on developed countries to reconsider their decision to maintain zero nominal growth in their mandated contributions to the UN system. It is essential that the international community agree to increase financial contributions to the multilateral system and

reverse the trend towards raising voluntary contributions at the expense of mandatory ones.

Heads of State and Government should ensure that the policies pursued by their countries in international fora are coherent and focus on the well-being of people.

Parliamentary oversight of the multilateral system at the global level should be progressively expanded. We propose the creation of a Parliamentary Group concerned with the coherence and consistency between global economic, social and environmental policies, which should develop an integrated oversight of major international organizations.

A critical requirement for better global governance is that all organizations, including UN agencies, should become more accountable to the public at large for the policies they pursue. National parliaments should contribute to this process by regularly reviewing decisions taken by their countries' representatives to these organizations.

Developing countries should have increased representation in the decision-making bodies of the Bretton Woods Institutions, while the working methods in the World Trade Organization (WTO) should provide for their full and effective participation in its negotiations.

Greater voice should be given to non-State actors, especially representative organizations of the poor.

The contributions of business, organized labour, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and of knowledge and advocacy networks to the social dimension of globalization should be strengthened.

Responsible media can play a central role in facilitating a movement towards a fairer and more inclusive globalization. Well-informed public opinion on issues raised in this Report is essential to underpin change. Policies everywhere therefore need to emphasize the importance of diversity in information and communication flows.

Mobilizing action for change

We believe that broad-based dialogue on our recommendations, especially on issues that are not currently being negotiated on the global agenda, is the essential first step in mobilizing action for change. It is of primary importance that such dialogue begins at the national level in order to construct the foundations of the necessary consensus and political will.

At the same time the multilateral system has to play a pivotal role in carrying forward reforms at the global level. We propose a new operational tool for upgrading the quality of policy coordination between international organizations on issues in which the implementation of their mandates intersect and their policies interact. Policy Coherence Initiatives should be launched by the relevant international organizations to develop more balanced policies for achieving a fair and inclusive globalization. The objective would be to progressively develop integrated policy proposals that appropriately balance economic, social, and environmental concerns on specific issues. The first initiative should address the question of global growth, investment, and employment creation and involve relevant UN bodies, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the WTO, and the ILO. Priority areas for other such initiatives include gender equality and the empowerment of women; education; health; food security; and human settlements.

A series of multi-stakeholder Policy Development Dialogues should also be organized by relevant international organizations to further consider and develop key policy proposals – such as a multilateral framework for the cross-border movement of people, a development framework for FDI, the strengthening of social protection in the global economy, and new forms of accountability of international organizations.

A Globalization Policy Forum should be organized by the UN and its specialized agencies to review on a regular and systematic basis the social impact of globalization. Participating organizations could produce a periodic 'State of Globalization Report'.

Our proposals call for a wider and more democratic participation of people and countries in the making of policies that affect them. And they also require those with the capacity and power to decide – governments, parliaments, business, labour, civil society and international organizations – to assume their common responsibility to promote a free, equitable and productive global community.